

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Hitoshi SAITO

Serial No.: New Application

Filed: January 30, 2002

For: TRANSFER SHEET, METHOD OF MANUFACTURING THE SAME AND
TRANSFER PRINTING METHOD

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application,
please enter the following changes:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before "BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION" insert:

Reference to Related Cases

This is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No.
09/760,742, filed January 17, 2001, which, in turn, is a

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continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 09/310,581, filed May 12, 1999, now Patent No. 6,333,295.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 6, 8, and 13 as follows:

6. (Amended) The transfer sheet according to claim 4, wherein the characteristics of the identification marks are represented by transmissivities or reflectivities to light rays used for detecting the identification marks.

8. (Amended) The transfer sheet according to claim 4, wherein the identification marks of one transfer region set are printed by using printing plates on a printing cylinder different from those for the other transfer region sets on the printing cylinder, and the identification marks of the transfer region set have characteristics different from those for the other transfer region sets.

13. (Amended) The transfer sheet according to claim 10,
wherein

the characteristics of the identification marks are
represented by transmissivities or reflectivities to light rays
used for detecting the identification marks.

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REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to eliminate multiply dependent claims from the above-identified application and to make reference that this case is a continuation-in-part of Serial No. 09/760,742 filed January 17, 2001, which, in turn, is a continuation-in-part application of application Serial No. 09/310,581, filed May 12, 1999, now Patent No. 6,333,295.

Prompt and favorable examination of this application on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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January 30, 2002
Date

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(rev. 3/3/00)

MARK-UP

characteristics different from those for the other transfer region sets.

(Amended)

6. The transfer sheet according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the characteristics of the identification marks are represented by transmissivities or reflectivities to light rays used for detecting the identification marks.

7. The transfer sheet according to claim 6, wherein the different identification marks have different transmissivities or reflectivities, respectively, and the difference between the largest and the smallest transmissivity or reflectivity is 10% or below of the largest one when the light rays have a wavelength in the range of 800 to 950 nm.

(Amended)

8. The transfer sheet according to claim 4 or 5, wherein the identification marks of one transfer region set are printed by using printing plates on a printing cylinder different from those for the other transfer region sets on the printing cylinder, and the identification marks of the transfer region set have characteristics different from those for the other transfer region sets.

9. The transfer sheet according to claim 8, wherein the identification marks of one transfer region set represent information about the position of the corresponding transfer region sets.

10. A transfer sheet comprising:

a base sheet;

a thermal transfer layer having a plurality of transfer region sets, each transfer region set having a plurality of transfer regions with functions different from each other; and identification marks formed in the transfer region sets, respectively;

wherein the identification marks comprises an identification mark having a plurality of parts, one part having

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a characteristic different from those of the other parts.

11. The transfer sheet according to claim 10, wherein the identification mark having a plurality of parts is provided in each transfer region set.

12. The transfer sheet according to claim 10, wherein the identification marks of one transfer region set are formed in the transfer regions, respectively, and the identification mark of one of the transfer regions of the transfer region set has a characteristic different from those for the identification marks of the other transfer regions of the same transfer region set.

13. ^(Amended) The transfer sheet according to ^{claim 10} any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein

the characteristics of the identification marks are represented by transmissivities or reflectivities to light rays used for detecting the identification marks.

14. The transfer sheet according to claim 13, wherein the different identification marks have different transmissivities or reflectivities, respectively, and the difference between the largest and the smallest transmissivity or reflectivity is 10% or below of the largest one when the light rays have a wavelength in the range of 400 to 700 nm.

15. The transfer sheet according to claim 13, wherein the different identification marks have different transmissivities or reflectivities, respectively, and the largest transmissivity or reflectivity is 1 to 10% and the smallest transmissivity or reflectivity is below 1% when the light rays have a wavelength in the range of 800 to 950 nm.

16. A method of manufacturing a transfer sheet comprising a base sheet, a thermal transfer layer having a plurality of transfer region sets, each transfer region set having a plurality

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